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A

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

ROYAL GARDENS

AT

RICHMOND in *SURRY*,

The Village, *and* Places adjacent.

WITH

Some Account of its ANTIQUITY, and what has happen'd Remarkable there.

In a LETTER to a Society of Gentlemen.

Illustrated with Copper Plates of a Plan of the Gardens, Palace, Hermitage, Cave, Dairy, Summer-Houses, and Temple.

To be Sold at the several Taverns in *Richmond*; at the *Sword-Blade* Coffee-House, in *Exchange-Alley*; *St. Dunstan's* Coffee-House in *Fleet-Street*; and at *Fisher's* Coffee-House in *New Burlington-Street*, *St. James's*.

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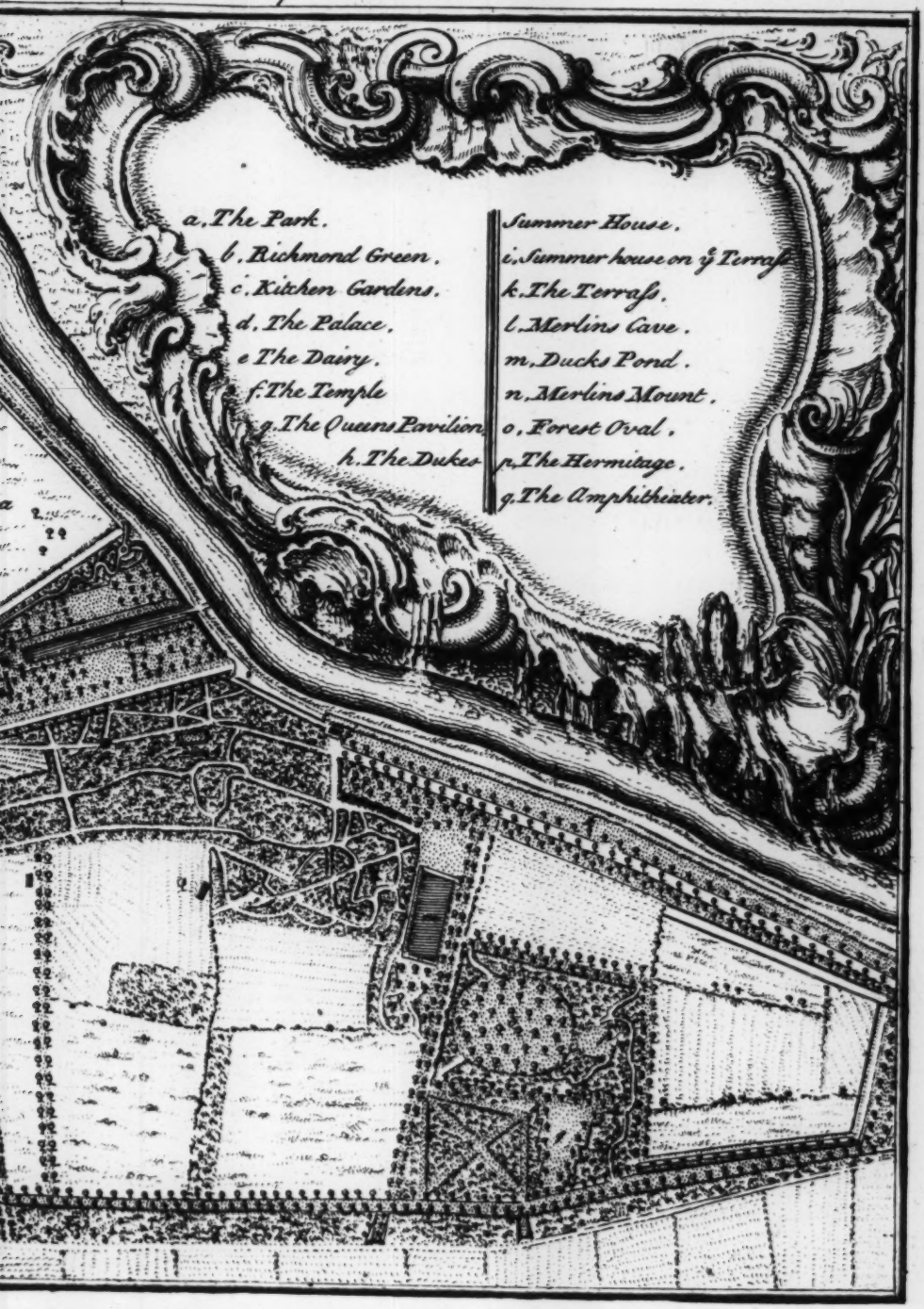
PLAN of the ROYAL GARDE

GARDENS of Richmond.



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A DESCRIPTION OF THE ROYAL GARDENS AT RICHMOND, *the* Village, *and* Places adjacent, *&c.*

Gentlemen,

IN Conformity to your frequent Solicitations, I have attempted to give you a brief Account of this ſo-much-celebrated Village, together with the Royal Gardens: But before I proceed to the Deſcription, it may not be amiſs to obſerve how commodiouſly and expeditiouſly you may be convey'd thither from *London.*

The

The ſilent *Thames* reverts its Silver Streams no leſs than twice a Day, and whoſe polite Mirmidons require but Sixpence for each Paſſenger; or you may have a Pair of Oars to yourſelf for half a Crown to *Mortlake*; beſides regaling your Ears moſt plentifully with Water Jokes, Quirks, and Conundrums, entirely their own, which they bounteouſly beſtow upon all paſſing by, without Diſtinction; for they hold it for a Law, that no Exceptions are to be taken upon the Water. From *Mortlake* it's little more than a Mile.

But if you don't care to truſt yourſelf in the Arms of that unſtable Miſtreſs, behold another Opportunity offers itſelf no leſs commodious; for do but repair to the *One Bell* Inn in the *Strand*, or the *Spread Eagle* in *Gracechurch-Street*, at Three in the Afternoon, you will find a proper Vehicle adapted to *Terra firma*, which will roll you thither in two Hours, free from the Terrors of being drowned; the Fare being two Shillings.

In the Coach Road is *Eaſt-Shene*, about a Mile and a half from *Richmond*; where Sir *Gerard Conyers* hath a good Houſe, as alſo the Lord Viſcount *Palmerſton*, whoſe fine Gardens were made by the famous Sir *William Temple*; a Subject he treated ſo confeſſedly well of in his Writings, and in which he much delighted. About half a Mile from *Richmond* is *Marſh-Gate*; where are the Houſes of Mr. *Mackcane*, and

and —— *Lethuillier*, Esq; and *Batchelors-Hall*, formerly inhabited by the Marquess of *Lothian*.

Now supposing you arriv'd at this *Friscati* of *England*, pleas'd with the Variety of Objects and agreeable Chit-chat that past in the Coach, steer directly to some one of the Taverns or Inns, for there are several very good ones, where the greatest of Quality have been entertain'd; and having taken a Glass, and adjusted your Dress, then walk out, single or in Chorus, towards the Green; which you'll find to be very pleasant, exceeding level, and enclosed in a handsome Manner, surrounded with lofty Elms, and built on each Side with Gentlemen's Houses.

Here Matches at Cricket are frequently play'd, and sometimes by Persons of Distinction, and for considerable Sums, few Places being more convenient for the Purpose. A Sun-Dial is here affixed in a pretty Taste, and encompassed with Seats: This, and the railing in of the Green, were at the sole Charge of her Majesty.

On the North-East Side of this spacious Green is the House of Mr. *Heydegger*, so well known to the polite World for his Direction of the Opera's for many Years; and a little beyond is that of his Royal Highness the Duke; passing by which, you come to a small Park of their Majesties, well stock'd with Deer; opposite thereto you enter the Gardens, where rude Nature hath been much improv'd, and the Advice anti-

anticipated, Mr. *Pope* gives in the following Lines.

To build, to plant, whatever you intend,
To rear the Column, or the Arch to bend;
To ſwell the Terraſs, or to ſink the Grot,
In all let Nature never be forgot;
Conſult the Genius of the Place in all:
That tells the Waters, or to riſe or fall;
Or helps th' ambitious Hill the Heav'ns to ſcale,
Or ſcoops in circling Theatres the Vale;
Calls in the Country, catches opening Glades;
Joins willing Woods, and varies Shades from Shades;
Now breaks, or now directs th' intending Lines;
Paints as you plant, and as you work, deſigns.

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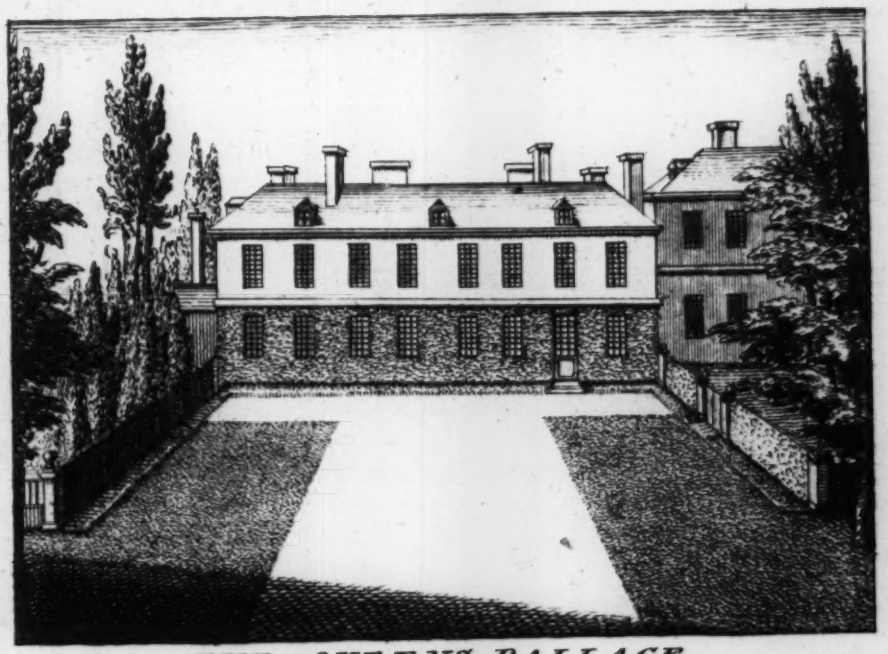
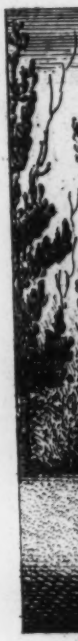


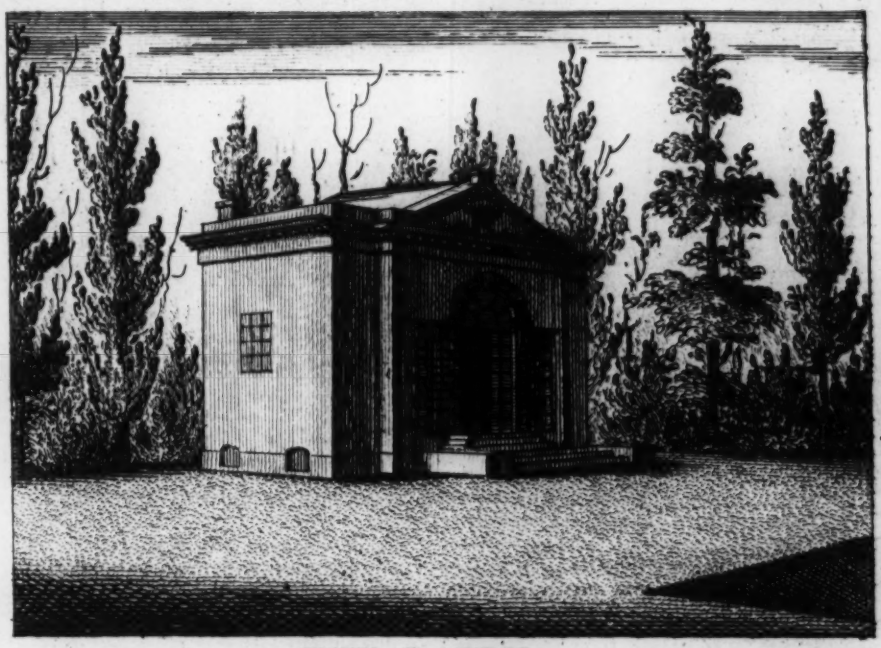
THE QUEENS PALLACE.

Built by the Duke of *Ormond:* Much Land hereabouts having been granted to him by King *William* the Third, (*Richmond* being a large Royal Manor,) as a Reward for his military Services; but devolved to the Crown the Firſt of King *George* the Firſt, on the ſaid Duke's Attainder; and by his preſent Majeſty in Parliament, confirmed to the Queen, if ſhe ſurvives, as Dowager Queen of *England*; ſince which great Additions have been made, and Parcels of Land purchaſed, to make it more commodious.

'Tis uſual to conduct the Company to

THE





THE DAIRY.

A neat but low Brick Building, with *Venetian* Windows, the Walls covered with Stucco; within moſt aptly furniſhed, the Utenſils for the Milk being of the moſt beautiful China.

Paſſing by the Side of a Canal, and through a Grove of young Trees,

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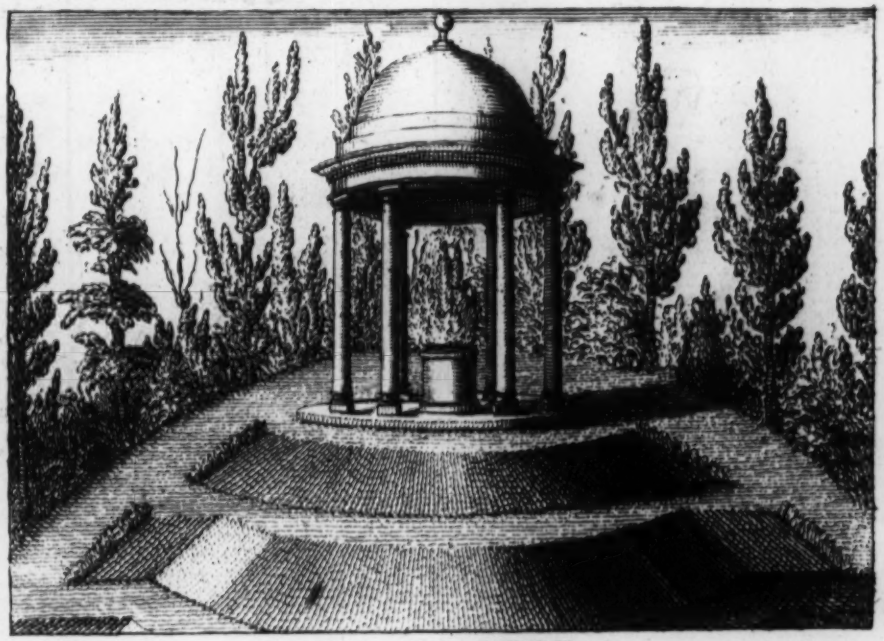
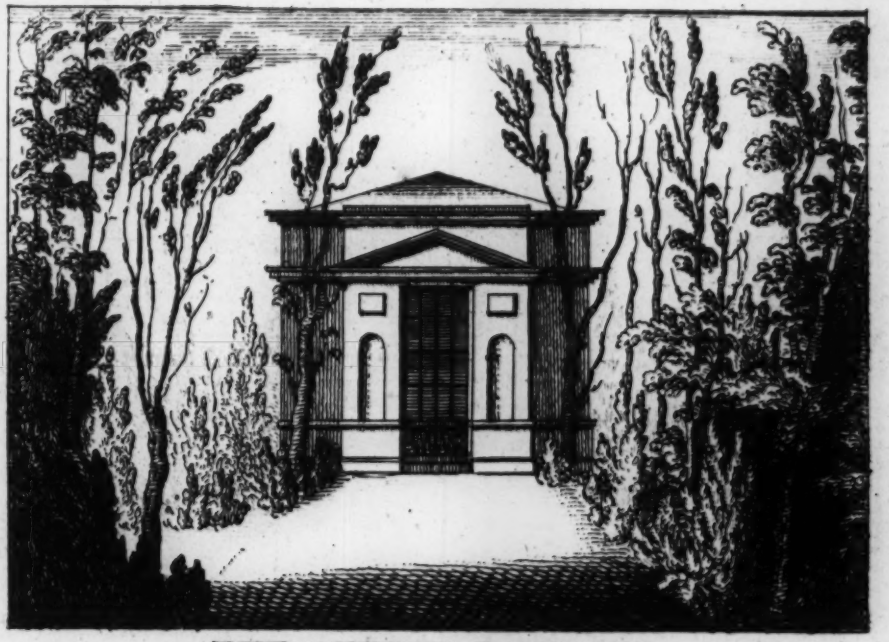


THE TEMPLE.

Preſents itſelf to View on a Mount, its Portico ſupported with Pillars, to which you aſcend by very ſteep Slopes.

Returning by the Dairy, and croſſing the Gravel-Walk, leading from the Palace to the River, you come to a Wood, into which you enter by a Walk terminating with



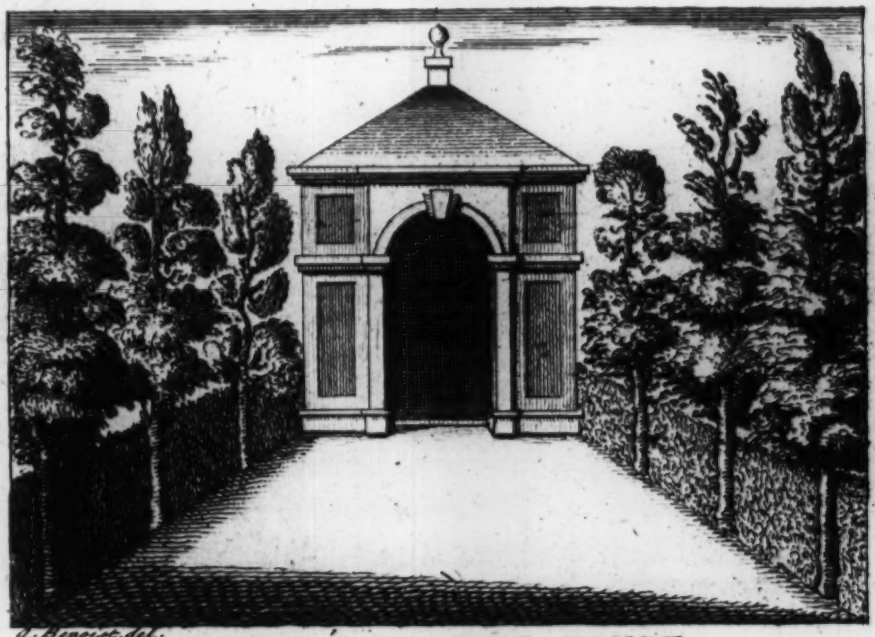
THE QUEENS PAVILION.

Here is ſeen a beautiful Chimney-Piece, taken from a Deſign in the Addition to *Palladio*, and a Model of a Palace intended to be built here.

In another Part of the Wood, by the Side of a dry Pond, is

THE

V.



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THE DUKE'S SUMMER-HOUSE.

In the Angles of which are beautiful Corner-Cupboards, with Sets of fine China for the Tea-Table.

Leaving the Wood, you come to

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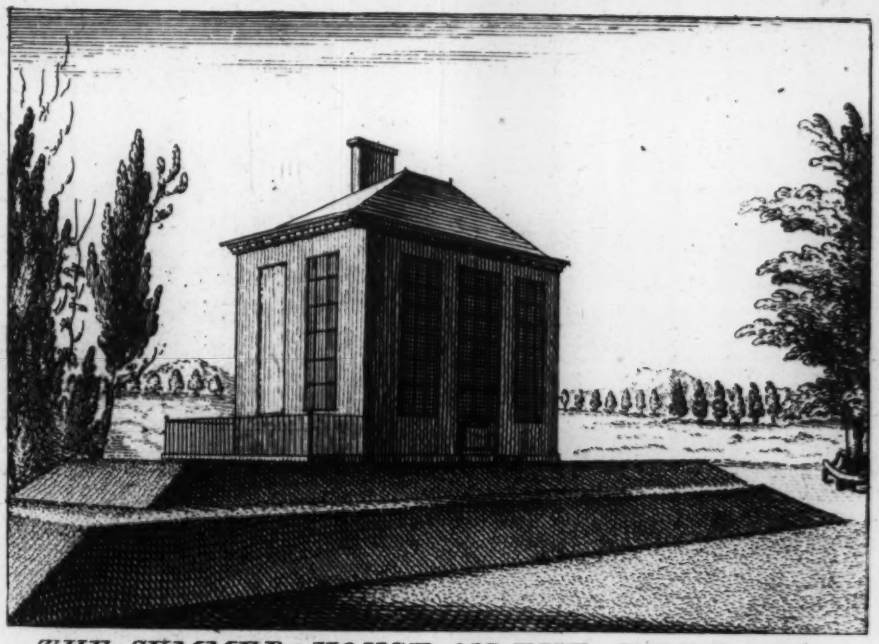

THE SUMMER-HOUSE ON THE TERRASS.

Where are two good Pictures, repreſenting the taking of *Vigo* by the late Duke of *Ormond:* From hence is ſeen a-croſs the *Thames* a ſtately Stone Building, called *Sion-Houſe*, a Seat of his Grace the Duke of *Somerſet*; where Queen *Ann*, when Princeſs, and in Diſgrace once with King *William*, reſided. Here was formerly a Houſe of Religious, of the Order of St. *Bridget*. See Abſtract of the Foundation Charter at the latter End.

Going through a Labyrinth, to the Duck's Pond, near which is

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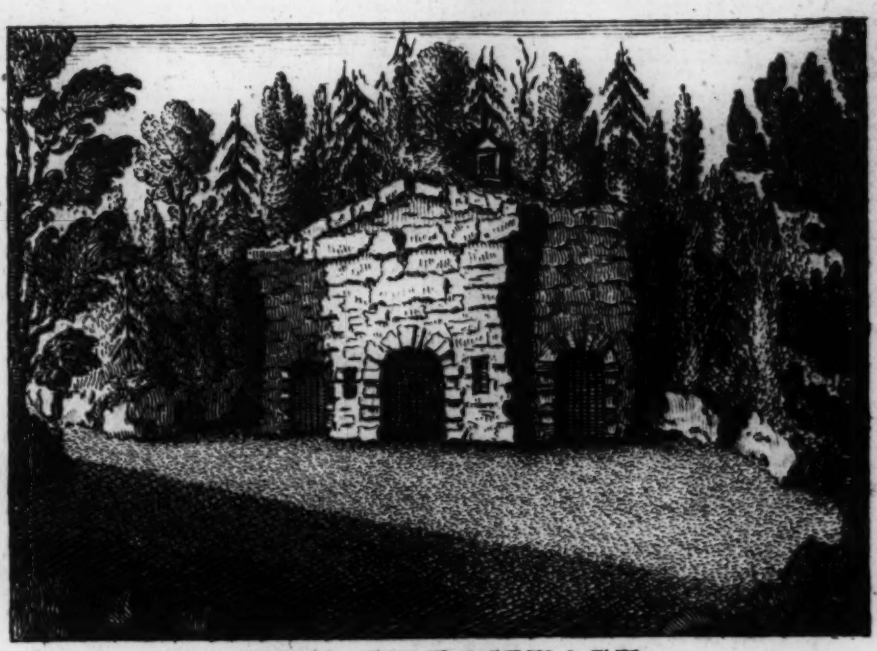
MERLIN'S CAVE.

A *Gothick* Building, thatch'd: Within are represented the following hieroglyphical Figures, in Wax; *Merlin*, an antient *British* Enchanter, Queen *Elizabeth* and her Nurse, and a Queen of the *Amazons*; here is likewise a well chosen Collection of Books, of modern Authors, bound in Vellum. Going from hence, you come to the great Oval, its large Diameter more than five hundred Feet, call'd the Forest Oval; from a Part of which you turn to



THE HERMITAGE.

A groteſque Building, or Heap of Stones laid rudely together, and though but lately done, (within theſe three Years) very much reſembles Antiquity; on the Top (to which you are lead by a winding Walk) a little Turret, with a Bell, in *Romiſh* Countries made uſe of to aſſemble together religious diſpos'd Perſons to join in Worſhip.—The Inſide in Form of an Octagon, with Niches, in which are the following Buſts in Marble; the firſt on the Right Hand, is that great Mathematician Sir *Iſaac Newton*; and next to him Mr. *Lock*, Author of the Book entitled, *Human Underſtanding*; the firſt on the Left Hand, the Rev. Mr. *Wollaſton*, and next him the Rev. Dr. *Clark*; and in an inner Part, a kind of Alcove, the Honourable Mr. *Boyle*. Leaving this

this (and passing between Grass Fields, Corn Fields, and wild Ground, with Broom and Furz, excellent Shelter for the Hares and Pheasants, the latter of which there are in Abundance, and very tame,) you come to an Amphitheatre formed by young Elms, and a Diagonal Wilderness; through which you pass to the Forest Walk, and therein continuing, by the Side of *Love-Lane*, (the Foot-Way from *Kew* to *Richmond*) upwards of half a Mile, you are conducted through a small Wilderness, near which you leave the Gardens.

At the Extremity, to the North-East of the Garden, is another House belonging to her Majesty, and near it the House of his Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales*, cover'd with Stucco; where is a fine Gallery, painted by Mr. *Ellis*, in the Stile of *Watteau*, designed as a Pattern for Tapestry: Opposite the Prince's House, is the Princess *Amelia*'s, built by a *Dutch* Architect, the Outside of which hath been lately painted.

To the West of the Gardens are seen the fine Houses of the Lady *Buckworth* and Mr. *Geoffery*'s; as also the House of the Hon. Major *Selwin*, in Commission of the Peace for the County; and opposite thereto, a-cross the *Thames*, *Islewortb*; where is the Earl of *Shresbury*'s House; and at some little Distance, Mr. *Moses Hart*'s, the *Jew*; adjacent is *Twickenham-Park*, the Hon. Madam *Vernon*'s, whose fine Avenues of Trees, opening to the House, hath a most pleasing Aspect from *Richmond-Hill*. At *Islewortb* was formerly a princely Palace of *Richard* King of the *Romans*

mans and Earl of *Cornwal*, but was burnt by the *Londoners* in a tumultuous Broil.

Returning to the Green, is Sir *Matthew Decker's* House and fine Gardens: Near this is the old Court, where stood the antient Palace of *Shene*, called so probably from the Resplendency of the Sun-Beams, reflected thereon by the River, near the Banks of which it stood, the Word in the *Saxon* Language signifying Bright or Shining; some little Remains of it are still to be seen. Here it was King *Edward* the Third died of Grief, for the Loss of his warlike Son, *Edward* the Black Prince; *Alice Pierce*, his Concubine, packing away what she could snatch, even to the Rings off his Fingers, left him; then his other Attendants, by her Example, seizing on what they could fasten, shift away; and all his Counsellors and others forsook him in his last Agonies, when most he needed them, leaving his Chamber quite empty; which a poor Priest in the House seeing, by Chance as he passes, approaches to the King's Bed Side, and finding him yet breathing, calls upon him to remember his Saviour, and to ask Mercy for his Offences; stirr'd up by the Voice of this Priest, he shews all Signs of Contrition, and at his last Breath expresses the Name of *Jesu*.

Here likewise died *Ann*, the entirely beloved Wife of *Richard* II. Daughter of the Emperor *Charles* IV. on which Account he caus'd it to be defac'd; whereas former Kings, being weary of the City, us'd customarily to resort here, as to a Place of Pleasure and Recreation.

This

This Lady taught the *English* Women the Use of the Side-Saddle, whereas before they were us'd to ride astride—About five Years preceeding the Death of this Queen, happen'd a Fighting amongst Gnats and other Flies within the Gates of the Palace, the King being there, in such an Abundance, that the Air was darken'd with them, Bushels might have been fill'd with the Slain; this occasion'd various Prognostications.

Henry the Fifth repaired and beautify'd it, and near thereto founded three Religious Houses, one of which a Priory of *Carthusians*, on the North Side of this his Manor, calling it *Jesus of Bethlehem*; see Abstract of the Foundation Charter at the latter End. 'Twas to this Priory *Henry* the Seventh hasten'd on the Rumour of *Simnell's* Conspiracy, and therein consulted the Measures proper to be taken. In the Month of *May*, the Sixth of this King, was holden a great and valiant Justing, for the Space of a Month, within the Palace, and sometimes without, upon the Green, before the Gate of the said Palace, when Sir *James Parker* and Mr. *Hugh Vaughan* engaging, on Account of the Arms the said Mr. *Vaughan* bore, as appointed by *Garter*, and which the King allow'd of, the former was thrust into the Mouth, occasion'd by his Helmet's being faulty, and his Tongue forc'd to the farther Part of his Head, died on the Spot.

In 1497, the thirteenth Year of his Reign, this Palace was destroy'd by Fire, the King being present; and in 1501 he new built it, and commanded it should be call'd *Richmond*, he

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having bore the Title of Earl of *Richmond* before he attain'd the Crown.

In the *Chriſtmas*-Time, the twenty-ſecond of his Reign, another Fire happened in the King's Lodgings here, when much Furniture was conſumed: In the Beginning of the *July* following a new-built Gallery here fell down about Midnight, wherein the King and Prince (afterwards King *Henry* VIII.) had been walking not an Hour before. Here King *Henry* VII. died, and *Henry* VIII. kept his *Chriſtmas* with great Royalty, the firſt Year of his Reign, at which Time was born to him a Prince, call'd after himſelf, but died here ſoon after. Queen *Elizabeth* reſorted much here; and when ſhe felt the Symptoms of Death, deſir'd to be remov'd to this her Palace, where with great Reſignation ſhe breath'd her laſt. To *Shene* was brought, wrapt in Lead and caſt in a Corner, and there remain'd many Years, the Body of *James* the Fourth King, of *Scotland*, ſlain at *Flodden-Field*.

It was deſtroyed in the Times of Uſurpation, a View of which I am printing by Subſcription, taken by an eminent Hand, and of a Size fit for Furniture.

Altho' that Beauty and Elegancy we are now arriv'd to, was not found in thoſe antient Buildings, they had as good a Notion of Situation as the Moderns.

Richmond from its wholſome Air hath been the Nurſery of many of our Princes and Princeſſes. On the Ground where formerly ſtood a Part of this Palace, the Right Hon. the Earl of *Cholmondley*

mondley hath a Houſe; alſo Mr. *Way*, Councellor at Law, formerly the Rev. Mr. *Hill*'s, whoſe back Front from the *Thames* hath a very good Effect.

Before you leave the Green, take Notice of the Coffee-Houſes, that you may know another Time where to take a Game at Billiards, read freſh News, or improve your Politicks.—The Village runs up the Hill (a full Mile to the Park) with ſeveral Gentlemen's Houſes and Gardens on the Declenſion to the River *Thames*, which waſhes the Bottom of the Hill.

Near the Entrance of the Village from *London*, is the Houſe of —— *Byers*, Eſq; inhabited by Madam *Ayloffe*; and oppoſite thereto that of —— *Dorrell*, Eſq; farther on the Charity-School; a little from which hath lately been built and open'd an Aſſembly-Room, by Subſcription of ſome noble Perſons; where the greateſt Care is taken to diſcourage any Attempts that may be made whereby the leaſt Diſreputation may accrue, and 'tis much wiſh'd will meet with Encouragement. The Publick Day *Monday*.

Paſſing by a large Tree, call'd the *Stocks-Tree*, from its formerly having the Stocks ſtanding near it, ſaid to have been planted by Queen *Elizabeth*, is a Paſſage about which the Watermen ply, to take in Paſſengers or Goods for *London* or elſewhere; a little Diſtance from which, gradually aſcending the Hill, is a Paſſage to the Ferry; oppoſite whereto a-croſs the *Thames*, is the Seat of ——*Windham Aſh*, Eſq; a Gentleman greatly eſteem'd in the Neighbourhood, for the many Additions and Alterations he hath made to employ Workmen. The

The Play-Houſe is not far from this Paſſage, where a Company from the Theatres exhibit thrice a Week, during the Receſs of the *London* Houſes; at the Back of which are Alms-Houſes for ten Men. Proceeding farther on by the Play-Houſe, you come to Alms-Houſes for ten poor Women; a little beyond which, is a pretty Grove of Trees, with commodious Seats; farther on the Summit of the Hill, where is another commodious Seat, from whence you have a very extenſive and delightful View; *Harrow on the Hill*, *Box-Hill*, and *Windſor* appear very conſpicuous; the pleaſing Meanders the River makes in paſſing from the latter, the Variety of encloſed Lands, rich Meadows, great Number of fine Seats, and delightful Villages, renders the Proſpect altogether raviſhing.

Near to this is the Entrance of the New Park, which for its Extent, Beauty, and Plenty of Game, adds greatly to the Delights of the Neighbourhood. Here it was King *William* broke his Collar-Bone. The Royal Family hunt here twice a Week during the Seaſon.

On the Declivity of the Hill is ſeen Part of the Gardens of the Right Hon. the Lord *Harrington*; the agreeable Situation, and rural Taſte in which they are deſign'd, together with a fine Pavilion, a little from the Entrance, makes it very well worth a Stranger's Notice; theſe were the Earl of *Rocheſter*'s, Uncle to the late Queen, whoſe Houſe was burnt down, about ſeventeen Years ſince, and a very valuable Library totally conſumed.

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The Lord *Harington*'s Houſe is at the further Part of the Gardens: Entering *Peterſham* a little farther on, is the Dutcheſs of *Rutland*'s. In the Gardens, oppoſite the Houſe, and by the Road Side, is a Yew-Tree of an extraordinary Height; adjacent to her Graces's Houſe, is Lady *Darnel*'s, and at ſome little Diſtance: Entering the fine Avenue leading to *Ham-Houſe*, the Seat of the Earl of *Dyſert*, is the Houſe of Mr. *Ord*, late *William Pulteney*'s Eſq; whoſe fine Banquetting-Houſe, in coming down the Hill, looks very pictureſque.

Near hereto are the ſo-much-fam'd *Ham-Walks*; which, with the ſtately Houſe and Gardens, were built, plan'd, and laid out, by the Duke of *Lauderdale*, a favourite Courtier of King *Charles* the Second, to which Place that Prince was much uſed to reſort.

Almoſt oppoſite acroſs the *Thames*, are ſeen the Houſes and Gardens of the Counteſs of *Suffolk*, Secretary *Johnſon*, the Earl of *Strafford*'s, and farther on beyond *Twickenham* Church, the celebrated Poet Mr. *Pope*'s, —— *Robert*'s Eſq; and Captain *Brown*'s, each of which hath its ſingular Beauties.

To *Twickenham* flows the Tide, about ſixty Miles from the *German* Ocean, ſcarce equall'd by any other River in *Europe*. Returning to *Richmond*, you may take notice of the Church; and, if the Doors are open, enter, in order to diſcover what is curious or antique, or what is as well, offer up ſome Petitions, where having conducted you, I beg to take Leave till your Devotion is over.

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Abstract of the FOUNDATION-CHARTER *of* Shene *Monastery in* Surry.

IN the Year 1414, King *Henry* V began to found three Monasteries; one of *Carthusians*, at his Manor of *Shene:* Another of *Celestine* Monks; who say, they observe the Rule of St. *Benedict* to a Tittle; and moreover oblige themselves to perpetual Reclusion; and the third *Brigittines*, who profess the Rule of St. *Augustine*, by them, with some other Ceremonies they have added, called the Rule of our Saviour.

It is not lawful for these to have the Value of a Farthing of their own, nor so much as to touch Money. In this Monastery, according to the Rule, there were to be sixty Sisters, thirteen Priests, four Deacons, and eight Lay-Brothers; all which together, made up the Number of the twelve Apostles, and the seventy two Disciples of *Christ*. They wear no Linnen, but always Woollen. These two Monasteries to have one Church in common; the Nuns above under the Roof, the Brothers below, even with the Ground; and both Monasteries are separately enclosed, and after Profession, it shall not be lawful for them to go abroad, without special Leave from the Pope. These two Monasteries, according to their Rule, are to be sufficiently endowed, to maintain the Religious and Servants, and defray all the Charges of so great a Monastery; so that they may sufficiently and quietly subsist, without

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out Want or Beggary, as well in ſcarce, as a plentiful Year: After that, if all the World ſhould offer them Lands and Poſſeſſions, it were not lawful for them to accept of the ſame. Every Year before the Feaſt of *All Saints*, the Proviſions and Neceſſaries for the following Year, is to be given the Day after *All Saints* to the Poor: But if at any Time, the Proviſions are not ſufficient for the enſuing Year, then ſo much as is requiſite of the preſent Year is added, and no more, if the Abbeſs and Confeſſor of the Place will avoid the Danger of their Souls. Whatſoever there remains is to be given to the Poor.

The Abbeſs, with the Conſent of the Siſters, is to chuſe one of the thirteen Prieſts, to be Confeſſor General of the Monaſtery, whom all the Brothers are to obey, and not to do any Thing contrary to this Order.

No ſecular or religious Man or Woman, ſhall enter the Cloyſter of the Nuns. Theſe, and other Rules and Cuſtoms, are obſerved by the Profeſſors of this new Order.

The Foundation Charter of King *Henry* V, ſets forth, that he founded this Monaſtery of *Carthuſians* on his Land at *Shene*, on the North Side of his Manor; there being 3125 Feet in Length, and 1305 Feet eight Inches in Breadth, extending from *Hakebolt* by *Diversbuſh* on the South, to the Croſs called *Croſaſh* on the North; and ordered it to be called, *The Houſe of* Jeſus *of* Bethlehem, at *Shene*; giving thoſe religious Men that Place for their Habitation for ever.

He

He farther beſtowed on them the Alien Priory, at *Ware*, in the County of *Hertford*; thoſe of *Noien*, and *New-Market*; the Priory or Manor of *Leveſham* at *Greenwich* in *Kent*; that of *Hayling* or *Heling*; that of *Cariſbroke* in the *Iſle of White*; that of *Hinkeley* in *Leiceſterſhire*, with all Things belonging to them; and in caſe any of the ſaid Priories or Manors, ſhould ever be juſtly taken from them, he orders them a yearly Compenſation for the Value, out of the Haniper of the Chancery: He alſo gave them *Peterſham-Ware* upon the *Thames*, near *Shene*, with half an Acre of Land adjacent, and all his Fiſhery of *Shene* in the ſaid Water; alſo four Pipes of red *Gaſcony* Wine yearly, of the King's own in *London*, exempting them from all ſecular Services and Burdens; as alſo from paying Tithes, or Tolls in Buying, or Selling, or any other Impoſitions whatſoever. He alſo allowed them a Court of their own, with a Gallows, Pillory, a Tumbrel, and Power to puniſh all Offenders; as alſo to hold their Leets and Law-Days for their Tenants; beſides a Market every *Tueſday*, at their Town of *Eſtthenreth*, and two Fairs yearly, to laſt eight Days; and, laſtly, he gives them Leave to make a ſubterraneous Aqueduct from a Spring called *Dilleſdenwel* in *Shene*, to convey the Water to their own Houſe, and to repair the ſame as often as there ſhall be Occaſion.

N. B. Authors do not mention where the *Celeſtines* were ſituated, but 'tis ſuppoſed at *Iſleworth*.

F I N I S.

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